Historical Sketches

OF

POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

BY

WILLIAM T. PRICE

Hath this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers? Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.—BIBLE.

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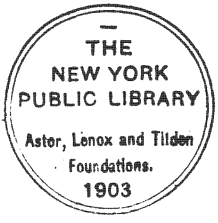

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Preface.

This volume seems to be the spontaneous outcome of circumstances, or in a sense has simply grown up "without observation." Most of the contents came the compiler's way without ever suspecting their future appearance in book form, by casually noting down what he saw and heard while moving around among the homes of our people, recording interviews with the older venerated persons, or recalling what was suggested during the thirty or forty youthful years of the almost forgotten past, and were published from time to time in the Pocahontas Times.

Referring to the Biographic Notes, we quote from the Bath News an article by Joseph T. McAllister, himself a historical student of more than ordinary ability: "These sketches are from notes made as occasion offered, and they can not be prized too highly. It is very hard for one man unaided to gather these facts, and it requires no little time to edit them. We sometimes think very lightly of such things, and are too much inclined to let the dead past bury its dead, and live alone in this work-a-day present. But we

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should remember that along this western Virginia the Scotch-Irish worked out a vast problem and wrought a vast change in the then existing form of government; that they made history and played no small or mean part in life's great stage; that the simple life they led nurtured men to whom we are indebted for countless blessings, and that no incident of their lives is too small or insignificant to be recorded. Only by access to such sketches as those published by Mr Price can the coming historian gather truthfully the materials from which to write. When Green, the great English historian, wrote his immortal work—it was not to set forth the deeds of the kings, or the deeds of the members of the royal household. He wrote what he fondly calls a 'History of the English People.' "

The writer esteems it a privilege granted by the Supreme Being,—in whom we live, move, and have our being,—to have been enabled to collect and put in permanent form the matter contained in these sketches, much of which would soon have faded from the minds of men and lost to present and future generations.

Sincere thanks are due the advance subscribers, without whose assurance of support and co-operation the work would not have been attempted at this time.

WILLIAM T. PRICE.

Marlinton, West Virginia,
July 19, 1901.

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